

# ZERO BEAT

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC

1 QSL BUREAU

SPRINGFIELD, MASS

ARRL AFFILIATED, 34th YEAR

## \*\* FLEA MARKET \*\*

## FRIDAY

BARGAINS GALORE !!!!!

Hams, like everyone else are feeling the effects of inflation and the loss of buying power. If you're like myself the amount of money you have to spend toward amateur radio is limited and you want to make every dollar count.

Well !!!!! the annual HCRA flea market is about to happen on the first Friday of May and here is a choice opportunity to be able to purchase many radio related items at very affordable prices. Bring some money (a large sum is not necessary) and be prepared for an evening of judicious shopping and horestrading.

When eyeballing flea market items, don't just look at items for face value. For example, a beat up minibox with two SO239 connectors mounted with a price tag of \$ .25 is well worth it - just in the connectors. If you see things which are of no immediate need, don't pass them up, especially things which have coax connectors, phone plugs, phone jacks, etc. Everyone, sooner or later, is going to have to replace a broken antenna connector or key plug. Just recall the little items you've had to replace in the past year and when you didn't have a replacement, that meant a trip to the local radio emporium for a new part at net price. If you never homebrew or don't plan to, come anyway and pick up a few spare parts for your rig (probably at a very modest price). If you are planning to homebrew, plan to pick up items that are not available at radio supply houses, such as variable capacitors, R.F. chokes, and multi-deck rotary switches. Things such as resistors and small capacitors should be purchased on an as-needed basis because of their varied values.

If you see an item with a price tag on it and you don't wish to buy it at the listed price, don't be afraid to dicker with the seller. After all, he is selling what he doesn't need or no longer wants. Another ploy is to wait to the end of the evening and dicker over items that are still left - you're bargaining power has greatly increased as the seller probably does not wish to bring anything home (except money).

It'll be a great evening whether you buy anything or not so "Come On Down"!

Gent, W1LCQF

COMMENT

After a very enjoyable 30 minute 10 meter SSB QSO with a ZS4 in South Africa, I came to some very interesting observations which never could have been brought out in the typical "5-9 Western Mass - will QSL" type of DX contact.

Dispensing with the preliminaries such as signal report, QTH, name, rig, and WX, we began an in depth discussion of:

Kenwood equipment-particularly my TS830S and his recently acquired pre-owned TS520S. He was interested in my comments on his transmitted audio quality since he was using a microphone that was not originally purchased with the rig. As time went on, he described his unorthodox way of connecting the microphone to the rig, due to the unavailability of the 4 pin microphone connector used by Kenwood.

At that point it occurred to me how fortunate we are being in the U.S.A., regardless of the energy crisis, inflation, and all the other things affecting our nation - for the most part at least we can almost obtain anything we want (for a nominal fee, of course). In other areas of the world fellow hams are faced with a virtual nonexistence of spare or replacement parts - regardless how much they are willing to pay for them.

I volunteered to send him the necessary connector and he replied with an offer of C.O.D. payment. My reply was that a QSL card would be sufficient.

"MORAL OF THE STORY"

Possibly it would behoove us to send a SO239, PL259, phone plug or some other little item (all to common to us) with a QSL card instead of the customary IRC's. Such a gesture may provide for a more practical exchange and greater chance of a return QSL from that station who is inundated with state-side cards. It would certainly further the fellowship between hams of the world.

MAY 1982

Dear Zero Beat,

I read with enthusiasm your repeater plans! May I suggest a few items you would want on the machine? A disk system on the computer would check the call of every member to make sure they are eligible for access. Also I could write a program that would monitor the inner-goings-on, and report on its' status. Anything we desire could be monitored, including the emergency batteries.

An "auto-QSO" function could be installed, that whenever pre-programmed famous dull hams check in, would answer and qso by using tapes or voice synthesis. After fifteen minutes of one sided conversation and replying "yeah", "Oh, you are so right," and "Fine business, OM", the system could suggest that they QSY to another machine.

NAME WITHHELD  
(To protect the guilty)



### FUTURE QSO

"Yeah, Joe, since I joined the club, ham radio's got more zing than ever!", said the gray haired amateur as he passed it back. "What's the club got to do with your new found happiness in hamdom, Fred?, back to you..."

"Well, when I moved into this here condo, the lease said no antennas of anykind, so all I've got is this here talkie. But by joining in with ten others in the same boat, I've got all band capabilities and top of the line radios, and a 70 foot tower. DXCC at last! It's fun and so how's the signal?"..."Not so fast there, Fred, You've got me intrigued, I'm stuck here with a dipole and a handheld because the township won't allow nothin' resemblin a tower. So tell me more"....."You should try this, I use a microcomputer with 276k, cost me \$100.00 but I thought what the hey, buy an expensive one. I use the little bugger to tie into the radio link on the phone line. The rig in the old auto lets me tie in while mobile. Just the other day snagged that rare african while waiting for Mabel to finish shopping, now that was a treat, oh, yeah, so we've got the Yaesu FT12D for HF, the usual autotuners, etc and I just type in where I want to operate and the computer puts me there. Me and five guys paid for the original set up and now there's more members. Of course only four can be on at once, but we're gonna put in more lines."

....."CQ,CQ,CQ this is.."

"Hey friend this frequency is in use! Boy these new bozos never listen first, with 8,000 satellite channels available why do they always pick out ours? Sheesh, so Sam, the television picture from England today is Q5, but the yellow is a little out of sync, try...."

**FOR SALE:** TRS 80 Md1 I, Level II, 16K, \$400.00; Expansion interface, w/32K, \$250.00; internal memory board, \$50.00; Stringy floppy w/ 45 disks, \$350.00; \$500.00 worth of software available with purchase, contact Carl, NLAHW, at 734-4848



## HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board of Directors and Officers for 1981-82

Ron Beauchemin WB1ETS - President . . . 593-9852  
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John Balboni AC1T . . . 786-2438

Ray Morin KA1CRG - Zero Beat Editor . . . 525-6202

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## SERVICE TO THE AMATEUR COMMUNITY

Have you ever wanted to buy a piece of used gear but you wern't sure of its condition?

Have you ever needed service on your equipment but didn't know where to get reliable help?

Now there is an easy answer to your problem.

Two of our own members have decided to band together to provide a service to the amateur community. Gent, WA1CQF, and Paul, WA1ZKT, have joined together to form a partnership that will provide sales of used equipment with a guarantee and equipment service at reasonable rates. Gent and Paul will also distribute the complete line of Austin Custom Antennas in this area.

If you have equipment you want to sell or are looking for used equipment or repairs, contact Gent at 737-9426 or Paul at 568-8291 for more information.

MAY 1982

OPINION

I recently read an entire year of "73" magazine. Years before, when first licensed, I'd perused the magazine and found nothing of interest. Today it is without a doubt the best magazine dealing with amateur radio published! Full color is used throughout, not just in the paid ads. No mini-mini-type is used, and the format is large and easy to read. There are more articles than any other magazine, and deal with up to date technology in ham radio. Satellites, computers, and spread sprectrum are covered in depth, and in a lively style that holds your interest. If you haven't read "73" lately, I recommend it to you.

de K1BE

PS- The editor still writes the same type of editorial, but is not so much "anti-ARRL" as "pro-ham radio", to use his words.

TIDBITS

K1WVX has 175 comfirmed on DXCC...The talk by K1WHS was super, very interesting and informative, and opened our eyes on how accessable moon bounce is to the average ham. The Board is to be commended on its' excellent choice of guest speakers this year...Hams interested in satellite TV reception, there's a net that meets each Sunday on 14.310 mhz at 1900 utc...Mt. Tom ARA did usual FB job providing communications for the St. Pat's parade. Well done!...AMRAD is the group interested in developing Spread Spectrum techniques. The address is: 1206 Livingston st., North; Arlington, Va 22205...The Western Mass ARES did super job during the simulated Rowe Nuclear disaster drill. Kudos to W1LHIH, W1UD, W1LHKN, and too many others to single out, for a job done well..... This column is interested in what you're doing, drop a note care of K1BE, PO Box 346, Southwick, Ma 01077..... W1TM is now retired from regular work!....



FOR SALE: From the estate of Bert Binns, W1KZU

Swan 350 with power supply, \$175.; Hammurland HQ 170A with spkr and clock, \$145.; Hallicrafter Skyrider recvr, (collectors item) \$25.; Hallicrafter's SX25 rcvr, needs work, \$35.; Mosley TA32 two element triband beam, you take down, \$25.; 10 element 2 meter beam, on top of triband beam, you take down, \$10.; Home brew rotator, make an offer!; Home brew Xmtr and amp in 6 foot rack, make an offer!; Hustler whip, 75, 40 and 20 meter sections, no mount, \$35.; Heath VTVM, \$5.; Digital electric clock, \$5.; partial coil of guy wire, \$10.

ANYTHING NOT PREVIOUSLY SOLD WILL BE AT THE FLEA MARKET MAY 7th!!  
OTHER GOODIES LIKE QSTS, HANDBOOKS, COMPONENTS ETC WILL BE AT FLEA MARKET!  
CONTACT Bob, K1BUB at 568-3120 or George, W1ALL at 569-5360 for more information.

FOR SALE: MATTEL INTELLIVISION, WITH NINE GAME CARTRIDGES, AS NEW CONDITION, COST OVER \$500., SELL FOR \$400!  
YAESU FT901DM HF TRANSCEIVER, WITH MANY BELLS AND WHISTLES, EXTRA TUBES, ETC CALL FOR MORE INFO \$800.00!!! Jeff evenings 569-6739

# \*\* FLEA MARKET \*\*

LOCATION: FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
FEEDING HILLS MASS.

DIRECTIONS: ROUTE 91 , TO AGAWAM

TAKE ROUTE 57 WEST TO ROUTE 187  
church is on the right

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 pm for sellers

FLEA MARKET : 7-11PM

TABLES: \$3.50

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT

LARRY KLGXU 583-8236

BANQUET TICKETS AVAILABLE  
AT THE FLEA MARKET

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HAM OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR 1982

WlTM BILL LOWE

AClT JOHN BALBONI

KlBE JEFF DUQUET

WAlRWU

WlMM

WBlETS

FRANK POTS

BOB STEVENS

RON BEAUCHEMIN

VOTING TO TAKE PLACE AT THE FLEA MARKET

AWARD TO BE GIVEN AT THE BANQUET

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DID YOU GET CAUGHT AGAIN THIS YEAR BY THE APRIL FOOLS ISSUE OF  
ZERO BEAT?WELL YOU WERE NOT ALONE!!

IF YOUR STILL WONDERING WHAT IT WAS LOOK AT BULLETIN #32

DON'T GET CAUGHT NEXT YEAR !!!!!

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MAY 1982

# NEW TECHNOLOGY: SATELLITE TELEVISION

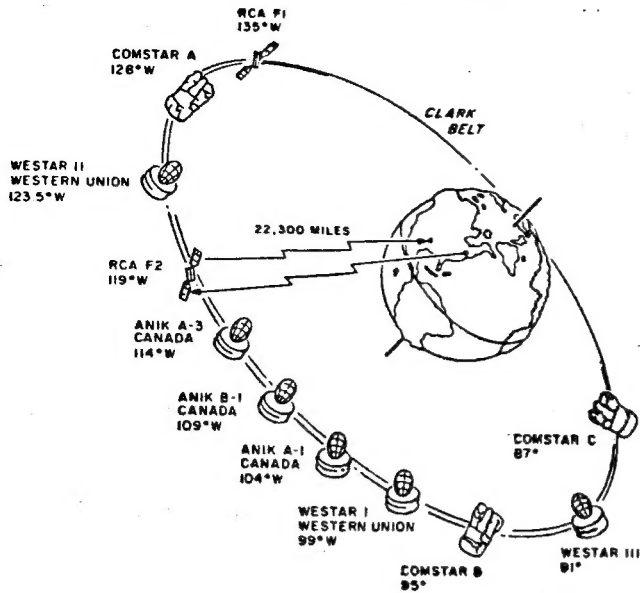


Fig. 1. Geostationary satellites.

TVRO (Television, receive only) terminals are springing up in backyards like daisies! These are used to watch satellite TV. A guest speaker will be featured next season on this topic, and so that you're not completely lost, articles in ZB will cover the basics. Ten years ago a terminal cost \$35,000, now you can do it for under \$2,000!

## HOW?

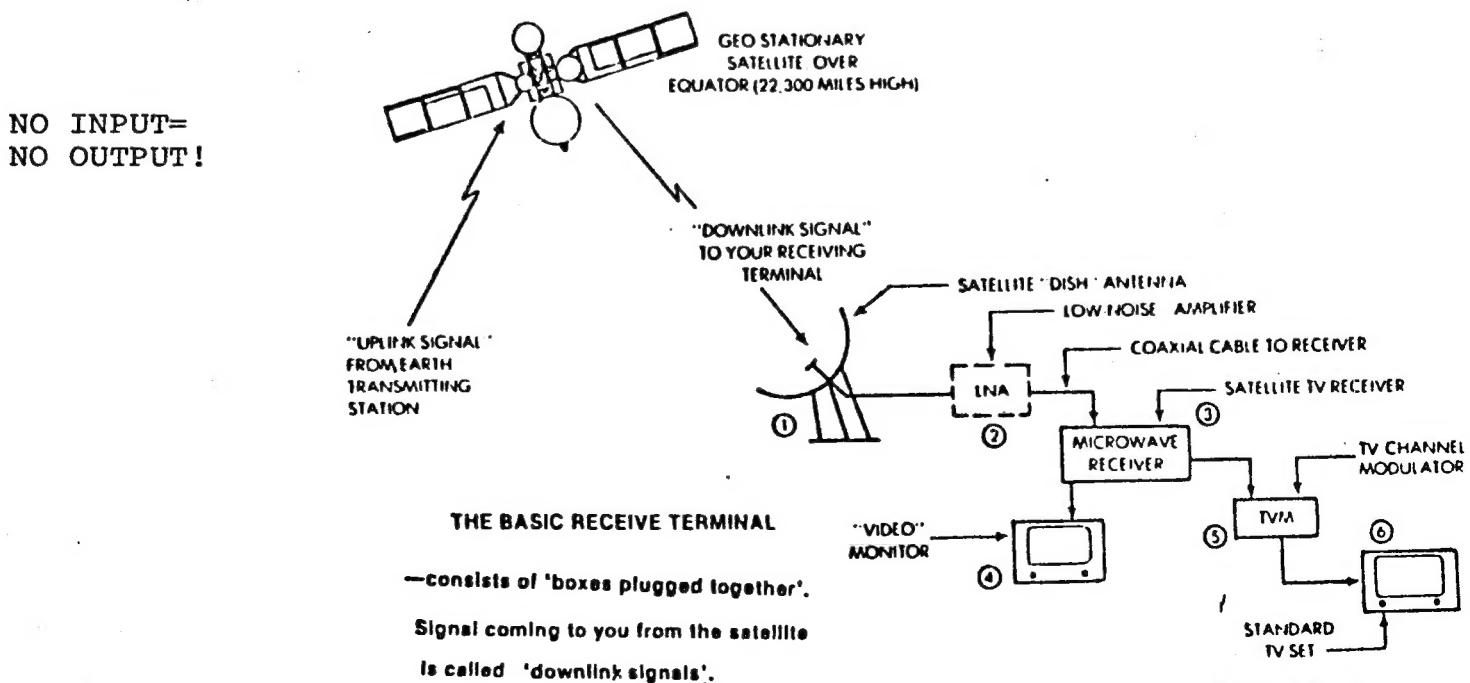
TV satellites are in synchronous orbits, which means that they rotate with the earth, so appear stationary to us. You point your antenna once, and voila!, no tracking or chasing

is necessary. (See fig. 1) Each satellite carries a number of transponders, relaying various signals. SATCOM I, a typical example, carries 24 transponders. A certain signal strength is put into every area in the US, and is called the "footprint" of the satellite. Our area has a 38db level. You must have enough gain to get the signal at least 10db above the noise level. The signals are at 3.7-4 Ghz range. What equipment enables you to get a watchable picture?

## EQUIPMENT SET UP

A basic TVRO set up consists of the following: An antenna, most commonly a dish with good gain figure, then an LNA, or low noise amplifier, that takes the signal and amplifies it, and sends it to a down converter, which processes it, and put it out on 70Mhz, or a TV channel of your choice. (see diagram below)

Future articles will include a chart of AZ-EL to various satellites from the Greater Springfield area, and more on antenna designs, LNA's from various manufacturers, and miscellaneous goodies. We want some input from the membership on how interested you are in this topic.



## QSL CARDS

ITS THAT TIME AGAIN

H.C.R.A. BANQUET

FRIDAY JUNE 4, 1982

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SIT DOWN DINNER 7:00 pm

Family style roast beef dinner  
with tossed salad, vegetable, potato  
beverage & desert.

\$7.00 per person

tickets available at the coffee  
bar during the flea market  
and from officers and board members

by mail send s.a.s.e. to

Ron Beauchemin  
56 Acrebrook DR.  
Chicopee, Mass. 01020

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED  
BY MAY 26

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AS LOW AS \$22.45 FOR 1,000 !!!

FOR MORE INFO. CALL 413-736-8184

"Quick As A Wink" Printing (QAAW)  
573 Union Street- West Spfld. Ma.



FEATURING OUR FAMED "SUDDEN  
SERVICE"

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MAY 1982 ZERO BEAT

AC1T

10/82